

Application Number 10/656,855
Amendment dated June 16, 2006
Responsive to Office Action mailed March 16, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method comprising rubbing a luminal surface of a vascular prosthesis with a tool to lift nodes from the luminal surface to define a plurality of recesses.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the vascular prosthesis comprises expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the tool comprises a wheel brush comprising bristles.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the brush comprises bristles of at least one of metal and nylon.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 14,
wherein the vascular prosthesis has a generally tube-shaped structure having an axis,
wherein the luminal surface defines a luminal direction along the axis, and
wherein rubbing comprises moving the bristles in the luminal direction to cause the
bristles to come in contact with the luminal surface.

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Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 11, further comprising mounting the prosthesis on a mandrel.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the luminal surface is an outer surface of the vascular prosthesis when the vascular prosthesis is rubbed with the tool, the method further comprising everting the vascular prosthesis after rubbing.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method comprising applying a frictional force to a medical device, the medical device adapted to be implanted in a human body and including at least one surface including expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, to lift nodes from the surface to define a plurality of recesses.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein applying the force comprises rubbing the surface with a tool.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 20, further comprising rubbing the surface with the tool in a transverse direction that is substantially perpendicular to an orientation of the nodes.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 20, wherein the tool comprises a wheel brush comprising bristles.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein applying the force comprises applying a pressurized fluid to the surface.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the fluid comprises one of water and air.

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Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

applying a frictional force to a medical device, the medical device adapted to be implanted in a human body and including at least one surface comprising nodes formed of polytetrafluoroethylene, to lift nodes from the surface to define a plurality of recesses; and seeding cells on a surface of a medical device adapted to be implanted in a human body, the surface including expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, the surface.

wherein the surface comprises nodes formed of polytetrafluoroethylene, and wherein the surface includes recesses defined by nodes lifted from the surface.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 25, further comprising harvesting the cells.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 26, wherein the seeding is performed less than fifteen minutes after the harvesting.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the medical device comprises a vascular prosthesis.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the cells comprise endothelial cells.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 29, wherein the endothelial cells comprise endothelial precursor cells.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the luminal surface comprises fibrils oriented to interconnect the nodes, and rubbing comprises rubbing the luminal surface in a direction substantially perpendicular parallel to the nodes oriented fibrils.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 19, wherein the surface comprises fibrils oriented to interconnect the nodes, and the force is applied to the surface in a direction substantially perpendicular parallel to the nodes oriented fibrils.

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Claim 33 (New): A method for treating a luminal surface of a vascular prosthesis that comprises expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, the luminal surface comprising nodes and fibrils, the method comprising applying a frictional force to the luminal surface to lift at least some of the nodes from the luminal surface and form recesses, wherein the lifted nodes are substantially free of attached fibrils.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 33,

wherein the vascular prosthesis has a generally tube-shaped structure having an axis,

wherein the fibrils are oriented to interconnect the nodes, and

wherein applying a frictional force to the luminal surface comprises applying the frictional force in a direction that is substantially parallel to the axis of the vascular prosthesis and the oriented fibrils.

Claim 35 (New): A method for treating a luminal surface of a vascular prosthesis that comprises expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, the method comprising applying a frictional force to the luminal surface substantially in the absence of frozen liquid to lift nodes from the luminal surface and form recesses.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 35,

wherein the vascular prosthesis has a generally tube-shaped structure having an axis,

wherein luminal surface comprises fibrils oriented to interconnect the nodes, and

wherein applying a frictional force to the luminal surface comprises applying the frictional force in a direction that is substantially parallel to the axis of the vascular prosthesis and the oriented fibrils.

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Claim 37 (New): A method for treating a luminal surface of a vascular prosthesis that comprises expanded polytetrafluoroethylene, wherein the luminal surface comprises nodes and fibrils oriented to interconnect the nodes, and wherein the vascular prosthesis has a generally tube-shaped structure having an axis, the method comprising rubbing the luminal surface with a brush in a direction that is substantially parallel to the axis of the vascular prosthesis and the oriented fibrils to lift the nodes from the luminal surface and form recesses.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the luminal surface is an outer surface of the vascular prosthesis when the vascular prosthesis is rubbed with the brush, the method further comprising everting the vascular prosthesis after rubbing.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein rubbing the luminal surface with a brush comprises contacting the luminal surface with the brush from within the tube-shaped structure of the vascular prosthesis.

Claim 40 (New): The method of claim 39, wherein rubbing the luminal surface with a brush comprises moving the brush through the tube shaped structure in a direction substantially parallel to the axis of the vascular prosthesis.

Claim 41 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the vascular prosthesis comprises an abluminal surface, and wherein the abluminal surface comprises nodes and fibrils oriented to interconnect the nodes, the method further comprising rubbing the abluminal surface with a brush in a direction that is substantially parallel to the axis of the vascular prosthesis and the oriented fibrils to lift the nodes from the luminal surface and form recesses